

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Call to Order: Chair Keith Regier, on February 1, 2017 at 9:00 AM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Keith Regier, Chair (R)
Sen. Jennifer Fielder, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Jen Gross (D)
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)
Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Sen. Margaret (Margie) MacDonald (D)
Sen. Diane Sands (D)
Sen. Nels Swandal (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Scott Sales (R)
Sen. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Julianne Burkhardt, Legislative Branch
Pam Schindler, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 2, 1/25/2017; SR 18, 1/25/2017; SR 19, 1/25/2017

HEARING ON SR 19

00:01:02 Vice Chair Fielder assumed the role of Chair.

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:18 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SR 19, Confirm Governor appointees to the Judiciary.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:12 Yvonne Laird, District Court Judge, 17th Judicial District, Chinook
[EXHIBIT\(jus23a01\)](#)

00:07:04 Rienne McElyea, District Court Judge, 18th Judicial District, Bozeman
[EXHIBIT\(jus23a02\)](#)

00:08:29 Bruce Spencer, president, State Bar of Montana

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Informational Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:09:36 Sen. Sands
00:10:20 Judge Laird
00:12:09 Sen. Sands
00:12:29 Clara Laird, daughter of Judge Laird
00:13:02 Sen. MacDonald
00:14:20 Judge Laird
00:15:10 Sen. Gross
00:15:47 Judge Laird
00:16:48 Chair Fielder
00:16:51 Sen. Regier
00:17:21 Judge McElyea
00:18:41 Judge Laird
00:20:10 Sen. Sands
00:20:39 Judge McElyea
00:23:09 Vice Chair Fielder
00:24:03 Judge Laird
00:25:40 Chair Fielder
00:25:52 Judge McElyea
00:27:48 Judge Laird

00:28:24 Sen. Swandal
00:29:13 Judge Laird
00:31:38 Chair Fielder
00:31:55 Judge McElyea

Closing by Sponsor:

00:33:01 Sen. Regier

HEARING ON SR 18

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:33:50 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SR 18, Confirm Governor's appointees to boards related to public safety.

[EXHIBIT\(jus23a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

None

Opponents' Testimony:

None

Informational Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:35:15 Sen. Sands
00:35:31 Sen. Regier
00:36:34 Chair Fielder
00:36:54 Sen. Regier
00:37:09 Julianne Burkhardt, Legislative Services Division
00:37:39 Sen. Regier
00:37:53 Sen. MacDonald
00:38:10 Sen. Regier

Closing by Sponsor:

00:38:20 Sen. Regier
00:38:25 Chairman Regier resumed the role of Chair.

HEARING ON SB 2

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:38:55 Sen. Pat Connell (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 2, Clarify county commission quorum requirements.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:46:57 Harold Blattie, executive director, Montana Association of Counties
00:52:09 Jason Rittal, development advisor, Fallon County
00:54:30 Todd Devlin, president, Montana Association of Counties; county commissioner, Prairie County; chairman, Montana Association of Counties Federal Land Payment Committee

Opponents' Testimony:

00:57:15 John MacDonald, Montana Newspaper Association (MNA)

Sen. Vincent entered the hearing room.

01:05:00 Dewey Bruce, president/CEO, Montana Broadcasters Association
01:07:06 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center

Informational Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:08:12 Sen. Fielder
01:10:35 Mr. MacDonald, MNA

Closing by Sponsor:

01:14:48 Sen. Connell
01:21:38 Chairman Regier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:22 A.M.

Pam Schindler, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([jus23aad.pdf](#))